

K-282

Kinsale  
Quaker Neck  
mid-18th Century

Kinsale has the same early history as adjoining Providence Plantation. In 1671, William Trew and William David purchased 350 acres called Comegys Choice from Cornelius Comegys. Davis sold his half of the farm to Edward Brown and in 1720, Edward Brown's grandson, Morgan Brown, along with William Trew, II, petitioned for a division of that land. From the records it does not appear to have been divided finally until 1747, two years after the farm had been re-patented under the name of Providence and at which time it contained a total of 420 acres. In the document of division it states that it is "to be divided so that each one's house is on his property . . . divided by a cove . . ."1

From the late 17th century until 1932, Brown's Part of Providence remained in the family. In 1932, Col. John DeCoursey purchased the property<sup>2</sup> and began its renovation. Tragically, however, in 1966, the house caught fire on an icy morning. Fire engines were unable to reach the house before it was totally lost. Just prior to that time Mr. Rolph Townsend had begun a photographic recording project in Kent County and had documented the building on film. From that photograph and the description relayed by the present owner, its appearance has been fairly well discerned.

The house, before its destruction, had been a two and a half story brick structure with the front and rear second story walls built of frame, suggesting the distinct possibility that it began as a one and a half story

residence. It had a central stairhall plan, but in the 20th century, the stair had been removed and reinstalled in a back wing, creating a single large living room as was done at King's Prevention of Broad Neck.

It is said that the original kitchen was free standing, but was moved to the rear of the house, heightened and enlarged. The entrance prior to 1966 was into the area of the old kitchen, even though the original main entrance remained in place on the southwest facade with a wide paneled door, crosetted trim, paneled jamb and brass lock. Other features included original mantels, doors and trim.

The development of Kinsale is similar to that of Depford, Stepney and the Dullam's Folly, each of which began as a one and a half story structure before it was heightened and additional bed chambers were created.

1. Land Records, Lib. JS 8, fol. 150.
2. Land Records, Lib. EHP 84, fol. 356.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. K-282

Magi No. 1502825135

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Henry Brown Farm

and/or common Kinsdale (site only)

## 2. Location

street & number NW side Quaker Neck Rd., 1.3 mi. SW of Johnstown Rd. — not for publication  
overlooking East Fork of Langford Creek

city, town Chestertown ☒ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Jeddie P. DeCoursey

street & number R.D. 3 telephone no.: 778-2386

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber EHP 84

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ folio 356

city, town Chestertown state Maryland 21620

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

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not applicable  
Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

Check one  
☐ unaltered  
☐ altered

Check one  
☐ original site  
☐ moved    date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Totally destroyed by fire in February, 1966, Kinsdale was a Federal-period house whose gable-roofed main section was 2-½ stories tall, 3 bays wide, and 2 bays deep. Gable ends were entirely brick, but the front and rear 2nd story was originally weather-board. There was a gable-roofed frame rear ell, substantially altered and added to by the last owner.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
X 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
___ 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D \_\_\_E \_\_\_F \_\_\_G

Level of Significance: \_\_\_national \_\_\_state \_\_\_local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Although a modern 1-story house now stands on the site of Kinsdale, through old photos and the last owner's narration it was learned that the earlier house was a substantial one of brick and frame construction most likely built in the Federal period. Resembling Providence Plantation (K-84) to the north, it was unusual in originally having gable ends which were entirely brick but second-story long sides of frame construction. This may indicate that this 2½ story house was originally 1½ stories, later raised but with concern for economical construction. From the colonial period through most of the twentieth century, this portion of Quaker Neck has remained quite unchanged.

Both Kinsdale and Providence Plantation have remained surrounded by large acreages of their upland with no nearby development. Until the 1930's when the sole public road serving this neck was paved (one lane) and truck and auto use became more feasible, this area was more easily served by water, at farm wharves for agricultural products and at the Cliffs Wharf, where the steamboat called, for both people and agricultural products.



## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

BUILDING FORM AND MATERIAL

1. Size  
Main Section: 2½ stories, 3 bays wide, 2 bays deep  
Wing A: lower 2 stories, ? bays wide, 1 bay deep  
Wing B: Still lower 2 stories  
Wing C: 2 stories
2. Plan type  
main Section: originally central hall, but owners 1931-66 removed stair and built another against the main section rear wall, but apparently within Wing A, which appeared on one side, in photo, to have been a hyphen.
3. Roof type  
Main Section: steep gable;  
Wings: gable
4. Chimneys  
Main Section: within wall both gable ends; rear ell: through roof ridge, at gable end before modern extension to ell was built. Of Brick. Decorative elements not known.
5. Material/Walls  
Main Section: Brick 1st story throughout; gable ends-brick from foundation to roof. Frame-front and rear second story of lapped horizontal weatherboard until 1931-66 owner bricked.  
Wings: Horizontal lapped weatherboard
6. Material/Roofs  
Main Section: asphalt shingles over wood shingles  
Wings: asphalt shingles
7. Material/Foundation  
Main Section: brick, cellar; gable end basement windows visible.  
Wings A and B: brick
8. Age  
Main Section: ca. 1780's
9. Style- vernacular Federal

BUILDING ELEMENTS AND DETAILS

1. Doors  
Main Entry: Main section, central bay. Said to have been wide and heavy with large brass lock and key. Not used as main entry by last owners.  
Secondary Entries: Southeast side, into Wing A-used as main entry by last owners. Door was relocated to bay next to main section by last owner. Another entry was into Wing A at the northeast gable end.
2. Windows  
Main Section: Type-Double-hung casements. Lights- Double -hung, were 6/6; 2/2 replacement sash on first story gable ends. Each gable end had two 4-light attic casements. Shutters were louvered  
Wings: Type- double-hung 6/6; casement (new kitchen); Palladian-type glassed doors in former kitchen, remodeled into dining room, northwest side. Shutters were louvered.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

## 3. Dormers

Main Section: 3-per roof slope, 1 in each bay. Gable-roofed with small returns; 6/6 sash; cheeks of weatherboard.

## 4. Roof details

Main Section: deep friezes added front and rear when 2nd story bricked; composite crown moldings; verge boards overlaid brick at gable ends; eave returns ca. 10-12'

5. Porches: A 3-bay low hipped-roof porch spanned the main section (probably 19th century or early 20th) and was removed by the last owner, being replaced by a small brick stoop and steps.

6. Color: White whitewashed/painted brick and weatherboard.

7. Other: The main section is said to have stood alone originally, with a separate one-story kitchen to the rear. A former owner (a Brown) supposedly had the kitchen moved forward attaching it to the rear of the main section and building a second story. He then built a new kitchen to the rear of the original, with a gable-end chimney and second story. When completed, this appeared as a continuous 2-story rear ell. The last owners altered the first kitchen section (called here Wing A), raising the roof, widening the section to the northwest, and building a stair and entry hall. The second kitchen was made a dining room, and a third 2-story kitchen addition was added at the ell's end.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

1. Plan type: originally central hall, one room deep, with rear ell added in three stages.

2. Major stair: original central hall stair of main section removed by last owner; new stair built against main section rear wall, apparently, however, within Wing A.

3. Major mantels: one 2nd story main section mantel removed and fireplace closed by time of fire; 3 mantels remained in main section.

OUTBUILDINGS/SITE DESCRIPTION

1. Outbuildings: There are several modern farm outbuildings. A railroad caboose in fairly original condition sits on a length of track on the property. Originally intended for a guest house, it now stands unused and deteriorating.

2. Site description: The site of the former house is somewhat elevated above the surrounding ground. The main section faced southwest, with gable end facing the creek. Before 1931 the house lawns were small and, like the outbuilding area, surrounded by a fence. The area between fence and the East Fork of Langford Creek was devoted to agricultural cultivation. The last owners removed the fence and extended the lawn to the water. Large trees shaded the house, but several were damaged and lost in the fire. A modern (late 1960's) 1-story house now stands on the property.

3. Views to/from site: Between Quaker Neck Road and the house site, on both sides of the long lane, are cultivated fields. There are views up Langford Creek's East Fork to the north and across to Broad Neck's Rock Point and Orchard Point, although the house at Orchard Point (Langcrock, K-255) cannot be seen because of the trees.

HISTORIC USE OF BUILDING

RESIDENCE, FARMHOUSE

## CONTINUATION SHEET

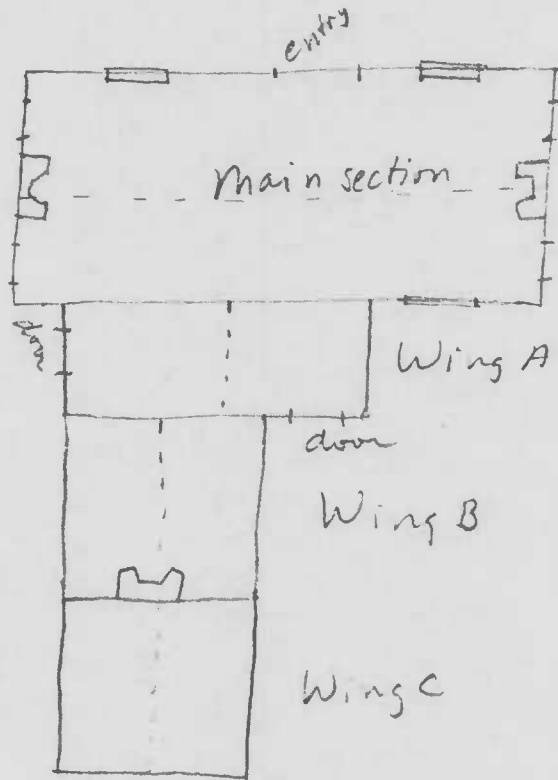
## 7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

HISTORY OF BUILDING/PAST OWNERSHIP

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and probably earlier as well, Deep Point to the southwest on the property had a wharf at which schooners and possibly steamboats called for agricultural products, notably tomatoes in the early 20th Century. At one time there was a separate lane to this wharf from Quaker Neck Road. It appears to have served not only this farm but also several adjacent farms.

Kinsdale was located on part of the 420 acres repatented in 1745 to William Trew and Morgan Brown and known as Providence Plantation. With subsequent redrawing of property lines, Providence Plantation today lies adjacent to the north, and the Kinsdale property appears to have been owned by the Brown family until 1931. The house at Kinsdale seems to have resembled closely the Providence Plantation house. Those who had examined both houses felt the same craftsmen, using the same hand tools, might have built both houses.

K-282



R. D. Johnson  
1951

K-282

1502926227

<p>1. STATE <u>Maryland</u>  COUNTY <u>Kent</u>  TOWN <u>Chestertown</u> VICINITY <u>Quaker Neck</u>  STREET NO. <u>Rt 289, 7 miles south of town,</u>  <u>(west)</u></p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER  ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u>  PRESENT OWNER <u>John B. DeCoursey Jr.</u>  PRESENT USE <u>house destroyed - newhouse</u>  WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u>  NO. OF STORIES <u>2</u></p>	<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  INVENTORY <u>K-282</u></p> <p>2. NAME <u>Kinsale (Site)</u></p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD <u>18th Century</u>  STYLE <u>Colonial</u>  ARCHITECT  BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
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4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC NO

Color Slide in possession of Mr. Ralph Townsend, Chestertown

destroyed by fire, 1965

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered    Interior    Exterior

<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> 	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p>
<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>	<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  <u>Michael Bourne</u></p> <p>DATE OF RECORD <u>January, 1969</u></p>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

